

MEDICINE BOW NATIONAL FOREST

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan

Management Area Prescriptions

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Introduction

The 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan (1985 Plan) for the Medicine Bow National Forest included specific direction on how to manage different land areas. These land areas were called management areas and are once again used in this Revised Plan. Each management area has a certain emphasis that will direct management activities on that piece of land. They include required prescriptions—standards and guidelines—so the Revised Plan and the EIS refer to areas as management area prescriptions. These prescriptions are grouped into categories with similar management emphasis.

The descriptions of each management area prescription include:

- ♦ **Theme** – the general management direction.
- ♦ **Setting** – the general environment in which the management area is located
- ♦ **Desired Condition** – how the area will look and the opportunities available in the future.
- ♦ **Standards and Guidelines** – management direction that applies to a particular area. Where there is a conflict in direction, the more restrictive approach applies.

The following table contains the management area numbers and prescription titles. There are eight major management area categories on a continuum from least evidence of disturbance (1) to most evidence of disturbance (8). This Plan does not use category 6. The table does not include management area prescriptions considered in other alternatives but not used in the Revised Plan. This approach was developed through a collaborative effort of Forest Service Regions 1, 2, and 4.

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Table 2-1. Management area (MA) prescriptions

Management Area Prescriptions	
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-primitive
1.2	Recommended for Wilderness
1.31	Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Nonmotorized
1.33	Backcountry Recreation, Summer Nonmotorized with Winter Snowmobiling
1.5	National River System, Wild Rivers Designated and Eligible
2.1	Special Interest Areas
2.2	Research Natural Areas
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized
3.33	Backcountry Recreation, Summer Motorized with Winter Nonmotorized
3.4	National River System, Scenic Rivers Designated and Eligible
3.5	Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats, Limited Snowmobiling
3.54	Special Wildlife Areas (Sheep Mountain)
3.56	Aspen Maintenance and Enhancement
3.58	Crucial Deer and Elk Winter Range
4.2	Scenery
4.3	Dispersed Recreation
5.12	General Forest and Rangelands, Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis
5.13	Forest Products
5.15	Forest Products, Ecological Maintenance and Restoration Considering the Historic Range of Variability
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range
5.42	Bighorn Sheep Habitat
7.1	Residential/Forest Interface
8.21	Developed Recreation
8.22	Ski-based Resorts, Existing and Potential
8.3	Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites
8.6	Administrative Sites

The following table lists selected activities allowed under each management area prescription, including road construction, timber harvest, grazing, motorized recreation, developed recreation, oil and gas leasing, and locatable minerals. The chart is not intended as a substitute for the actual standards and guidelines for the management area prescriptions. It should be used as reference to show what activities are generally allowed in the different areas.

Table 2-2. Selected activities permitted or restricted according to management area prescriptions (Rx).

Rx Number and Title		Road Constr.	Timber Harvest ¹	Grazing	Motorized Rec winter/summer ²	Developed Rec.	Oil and Gas	Locatable Minerals
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-primitive	No	No	Yes	No / No	No	No	No
1.2	Recommended for wilderness	No	No	Yes	Varies by area / No	No	Yes/NSO	Yes until withdrawn
1.31	Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Nonmotorized	No	Minimal	Yes	No / No	No	Yes/NSO	Yes
1.33	Backcountry Recreation, Summer Nonmotorized w/Winter Snowmobiling	No	Minimal	Yes	Yes / No	No	Yes/NSO	Yes
1.5	National River System, Wild Rivers Designated and Eligible	No	Minimal	Yes	Minimal / Minimal	No	Yes/NSO	Yes until withdrawn
2.1	Special Interest Areas	Yes	Minimal	Yes	Varies by area / Yes	Yes	Yes/Variable	Yes ³
2.2	Research Natural Areas	No	No	Minimal	No / No	No	Yes/NSO	Yes ³
3.31	Backcountry Rec, Year-round Motorized	No	Minimal	Yes	Yes / Yes	No	Yes/NSO	Yes
3.33	Backcountry Rec, Summer Motorized with Winter Nonmotorized	Yes	Minimal	Yes	No / Yes	No	Yes/NSO	Yes
3.4	National River System, Scenic Rivers Designated and Eligible	Yes	Minimal	Yes	No / Yes	Yes	Yes/NSO	Yes
3.5	Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats, Limited Snowmobiling	Minimal	Minimal	Yes ³	Restricted to routes/ Yes.	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.54	Special Wildlife Areas (Sheep Mtn)	No	Minimal	Minimal	No / No	No	Yes/NSO	No
3.56	Aspen Maintenance and Enhancement	Yes	Minimal	Yes	Yes / Yes	Yes	Yes/SS	Yes
3.58	Crucial Deer & Elk Winter Range	Minimal	Minimal	Yes ³	No / Yes	Yes	Yes/TL	Yes
4.2	Scenery	Minimal	Minimal	Yes	Yes / Yes	Yes	Yes/CSU	Yes

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Rx Number and Title	Road Constr.	Timber Harvest ¹	Grazing	Motorized Rec winter/summer ²	Developed Rec.	Oil and Gas	Locatable Minerals
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	Yes	Minimal	Yes	Yes / Yes	Yes	Yes/CSU	Yes
5.12 General Forest and Rangeland, Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis	Yes	Minimal	Yes	Yes / Yes	Yes	Yes/SS	Yes
5.13 Forest Products	Yes	Yes (ASQ)	Yes	Yes / Yes	Yes	Yes/SS	Yes
5.15 Forest Products, Ecological Maintenance and Restoration Considering the Historic Range of Variability	Yes	Yes (ASQ)	Yes	Yes / Yes	Yes	Yes/SS	Yes
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	Yes	Minimal	Yes	Yes / Yes	Yes	Yes/TL	Yes
5.42 Bighorn Sheep Habitat	Yes	Minimal	Yes ³	Restricted to routes / Yes	Yes	Yes/TL	Yes
7.1 Residential/Forest Interface	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
8.21 Developed Recreation	Yes	Minimal	No	Yes / Yes	Yes	Yes/NSO	No
8.22 Ski-based Resorts, Existing and Potential	Yes	Minimal	Yes	No / No	Yes	Yes/NSO	No
8.3 Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
8.6 Administrative Sites	Yes	Minimal	Minimal	Yes / Yes	No	Yes/NSO	No

¹ Timber harvest includes a full range of biologically appropriate silvicultural practices. Minimal harvest can occur in management areas for reasons other than wood production. Usually has the following vegetation standard in the management area prescription: *Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.* (Minimal = necessary for specific resource objectives other than wood production.)

² Summer motorized use limited to designated travelways unless cross-country use is specifically authorized.

³ Grazing is used to improve/maintain wildlife habitat.

* Corresponds to surrounding management area.

Minimal indicates uses may be allowed under special circumstances if compatible with specific management area direction.

Oil and Gas Stipulations: NSO – No surface occupancy stipulations, SS – standard stipulations, CSU – Controlled surface use stipulations, TL – timing stipulations

Category 1

Ecological processes such as fire, insects, and disease are essentially allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. Diversity resulting from natural succession and disturbances predominates and nonnative vegetation is rare. Users must be self-reliant and should expect low to moderate levels of contact with other people. Few, if any, man-made facilities are present. Travel is nonmotorized, with the exception of winter-motorized use in areas outside of wilderness. Typical types of areas are designated wilderness and backcountry lands.

1.13 Wilderness, Semi-primitive

Theme – Semi-primitive (or transition) wilderness areas are managed to protect natural conditions and provide access to primitive or pristine areas of the wilderness. Encounters with other users may be frequent due to concentrated use. Past human use of the area is evident.

Setting – These areas of wilderness feature natural environmental conditions and offer a moderate degree of solitude where natural processes and conditions have not been significantly influenced by human use.

Desired Condition – Vegetation will be undisturbed by human intervention. Forested vegetation in the area will be mostly late successional unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, or disease. Evidence of the effects of fire, insects, or disease may be present. Non-native plants are not desirable and are not likely to occur in this area. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development. Forage for wildlife and livestock will be available in meadows and natural openings, and rangelands with less than 70% forested cover, although availability may be limited due to topography and the short growing season.

Opportunities to view wildlife will exist but will not be encouraged through management activities, other than at trailheads. Educational and interpretive activities will emphasize protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, sensitive habitats, and overall biological diversity.

These areas will provide low to moderate opportunities for solitude and isolation from July to September. Encounters with other people will be common during this period. Knowledge of primitive skills will be useful in an environment that will offer a high to moderate level of challenge and risk. There will be some evidence of past human use. Trails and campsites will be the most common sign of human use. Some campsites will have a moderate amount of vegetation loss, which may result in temporary closures.

Roads will not be present in this area. Travel will be primarily along a well-defined trail system, although some cross-country opportunities will exist. Trail tread will be very evident and trails will normally be clear of timber and brush. Bridges or other trail structures may be present if needed for resource protection or where no safe opportunity

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

exists to cross a stream during periods of normal water flow. Both directional signs and resource protection signs may be present.

Domestic livestock may be encountered in this area during the summer. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments may be present.

Forest Service Manual 2300 allows for the use of prescribed fire in wilderness.

Standards and Guidelines

General

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| Standards | 1. | Allow uses and activities only if they do not degrade the semi-primitive character of the area. |
| | 2. | Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purpose for which the area was identified. |

Fire and Fuels

- | | | |
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| Standard | 1. | Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques that minimize soil and vegetation disturbance. |
| Guideline | 1. | Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy. |

Infrastructure

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| Guideline | 1. | Provide bridges if necessary for user safety or to protect streamside areas but not just for user convenience. Use native, on-site materials to construct necessary bridges. |
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Integrated Pest Management

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| Standard | 1. | Allow natural processes, including insects and disease to occur. |
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Recreation

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| Standards | 1. | Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized. |
| | 2. | Limit human impacts to those that result in a natural appearance and replicate natural processes. |
| | 3. | Close and re-vegetate all Cole Class 4 through 5 campsites. |

Scenery

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| Guideline | 1. | Meet the scenic integrity objective of Very High. |
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Special Uses

- Guideline 1. Allow outfitter camps only in sites specified in special-use permits.

Transportation

- Standard 1. Prohibit motorized use.

- Guidelines 1. After appropriate analysis, and as funding allows, take the following actions, where needed:
- Minimize trail impacts to scenic resources,
 - Eliminate duplicate routes, and
 - Remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.
2. Provide only the minimum signing necessary to indicate directional information at trail junctions or to protect resources.

1.2 Recommended for Wilderness

Theme – Areas, which the Forest Service has recommended or will recommend to Congress for inclusion in the National Wilderness System, are managed to protect wilderness characteristics until Congressional action is taken. Non-conforming activities may be limited or restricted.

Setting – These are areas that Congress has directed the Forest Service to study, or that the Forest Service has independently found suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness System. These areas will be recommended to Congress for wilderness designation. These areas will be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics. Existing uses (e.g., mountain bikes, snowmobiles, chainsaws, and other motorized or mechanized equipment) not compatible with Wilderness Area management may be present. These uses are identified in the Geographic Area direction.

Desired Condition – Vegetation composition and structure will be relatively undisturbed by human intervention, although some areas may be affected by fire suppression. Vegetation will be mostly mid to late successional unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects or disease. Forage for wildlife and livestock will be available in meadows and natural openings.

Opportunities to view wildlife will exist, but will not be encouraged through management activities other than at trailheads. Educational and interpretive activities will emphasize protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, sensitive habitats, and overall biological diversity.

Existing old roadbeds may be evident, but rehabilitation efforts will change their appearance. These roadbeds may be utilized as part of the trail system. Travel will occur cross-country on primitive trails or on a well defined trail system, depending upon historic use patterns. Trail tread will vary from nonexistent to very evident, and may or may not be cleared of downed timber or brush. Bridges or other trail structures may be present, but normally only where needed for resource protection or where no safe opportunity exists to cross a stream along a system trail during periods of normal water flow. Directional trail signs and resource protection signs may occur in this area.

Domestic livestock may be encountered in this area during the summer. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments may be present. Past or present mining activity may be visible.

No activities which jeopardize the eligibility of these areas for Congressional designation as wilderness will be allowed, although some existing uses, such as snowmobiling and mountain biking, may be allowed until a designation decision is made.

Standards and Guidelines

General

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| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not allow management actions or proposed new uses, which would be the basis for not recommending the area for classification, or which would alter wilderness characteristics. 2. Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the area was identified. |
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Fire and Fuels

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|-----------|---|
| Standard | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques, which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance. |
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy. |

Infrastructure

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| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow motorized equipment, such as chainsaws, for maintenance, construction, and other forest management activities. |
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Minerals

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| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted. 2. Withdraw these areas from entry for locatable minerals. 3. Honor all valid existing mineral rights. |
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Rangelands

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| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize natural materials in the construction/reconstruction of fences. |
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Recreation

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| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Close and re-vegetate all Cole Class 4 and 5 campsites. 2. Manage for an ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized during the summer. 3. Manage for a winter ROS of Semi-Primitive Motorized in the Rock Creek area and for a winter ROS of Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized in the Huston Park and Encampment River additions. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

4. Limit recreation developments to travelways, sanitation facilities; horse holding and handling facilities, directional and resource signing, and primitive shelters.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Very High.

Special Uses

- Standard 1. Prohibit utility corridors.

- Guideline 1. Authorize special uses only if compatible with wilderness qualities and values.

Transportation

- Standard 1. As funding allows, decommission and re-vegetate identified unneeded travelways.

- Guidelines 1. After appropriate analysis, and as funding allows, take the following actions where needed:
- Minimize trail impacts to scenic resources,
 - Eliminate duplicate routes,
 - Remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.
2. Provide only the minimum signing necessary to indicate directional information at trail junctions or to protect resources.

1.31 Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Nonmotorized

Theme – Backcountry, nonmotorized recreation areas are managed to provide recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape.

Setting - These areas, usually 2,500 acres or larger, are generally unroaded or may have some evidence of past roads. They are natural or natural appearing with little or no evidence of recent human-caused disturbance. They are important for providing nonmotorized recreation near the primitive end of the recreation opportunity spectrum.

Desired Condition – A variety of uncrowded, all year, nonmotorized recreation opportunities are provided in a natural or natural-appearing setting. Improvements such as trailheads, travelways, signs, bridges, fences, or shelters that enhance the recreation opportunities may be present. Travelways provide challenging hiking, horseback riding, or mountain biking opportunities. The potential to view wildlife is high.

Late successional structure stands may be present offering a variety of wildlife species associated with these habitats. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development. Domestic livestock will be encountered in this area during the summer. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present. Existing old roadbeds may be evident, but rehabilitation efforts will change their appearance. These roadbeds may be utilized as part of the trail system. There will usually be less than 15 encounters with other parties per day. These areas may offer unique hunting opportunities away from sight and sound of motorized vehicles.

Standards and Guidelines

General

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| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow uses and activities only if they do not degrade the semi-primitive character of the area. 2. Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the area was identified. |
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Fire and Fuels

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| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When possible, where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques, which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance. 2. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy. |
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Infrastructure

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| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motorized travel is prohibited except when authorized by special use permit or for administrative or emergency purposes. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- 2. Prohibit new system road construction or road reconstruction unless necessary to honor valid existing rights.
- Guidelines
 - 1. Allow use of motorized equipment, such as chainsaws and trail equipment, for maintenance, construction, and other management activities.
 - 2. Restrict construction of facilities and structures that are not subordinate to the landscape.
 - 3. Road construction is restricted to temporary road development for geophysical seismic projects. All temporary roads will be immediately reclaimed after use.

Minerals

- Standards
 - 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.
 - 2. Prohibit removal of mineral materials.

Rangelands

- Guideline
 - 1. Allow livestock facilities that do not detract from the semi-primitive character of the area.

Recreation

- Guidelines
 - 1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized as mapped.
 - 2. Limit recreation developments to travelways, sanitation facilities; horse holding and handling facilities, directional and resource signing, and primitive shelters.
 - 3. Do not allow dispersed campsite condition to exceed Cole's Class 3. Close and re-vegetate Cole class 4 and 5.
 - 4. Make all resource management activities compatible with recreation opportunities. Reduce impacts to other resources.
 - 5. In order to maintain the semi-primitive quality of the area, discourage concentrated public use.

Scenery

- Guideline
 - 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of High.

Special Uses

- Standards
 - 1. Prohibit new utility corridors.

2. Prohibit new special-use facilities.
- Guideline 1. Discourage competitive contests and group events.

Transportation

- Standard 1. Prohibit motorized uses.
- Guidelines 1. After appropriate analysis and as funding allows, take the following actions, where needed:
- Minimize trail impacts to scenic resources,
 - Eliminate duplicate routes,
 - Remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.
2. Provide only the minimum signing necessary to indicate directional information at trail junctions or to protect resources.
 3. Existing unneeded roads should be decommissioned or converted to trails.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.
- Guidelines 1. Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the area was identified.
2. Allow the cutting or removal of trees under circumstances such as; to reduce fuel load and fire risk, especially adjacent to private land; to curtail imminent threat of insect attack; enhancing a scenic view from a prominent overlook, to maintain wildlife habitat diversity or maintenance of existing facilities.

1.33 Backcountry Recreation, Summer Nonmotorized with Winter Snowmobiling

Theme – Areas are managed to provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a landscape with a natural appearance. Summer use is nonmotorized. Winter motorized use is allowed during the snow season.

Setting – These areas are usually larger than 2,500 acres. They are unroaded or have little evidence of past road construction. They have a natural appearance with little or no sign of human disturbance.

Desired Condition – The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed by human activity. Forested vegetation patterns and successional condition will generally be influenced by natural disturbance processes including, but not limited to, fire, insects, and disease. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

A variety of nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be provided in summer. There will be a high probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature, and tranquility. There will be a high to moderate degree of challenge and risk. Facilities will be rustic and will exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature. Dispersed camping will occur throughout the area. Interpretation and education in these areas will provide a link to historic uses and resource management objectives.

Trailheads will be located outside the area and provide access points into the backcountry with information and directional signing. Trails will provide challenging hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and other nonmotorized recreation opportunities during the months of no snow. The area will be managed for snowmobile use during the winter, as snow conditions allow. Existing old roadbeds may be evident, but rehabilitation efforts will change their appearance. These roadbeds may be utilized as part of the trail system.

Standards and Guidelines

General

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| Standards | 1. | Allow uses and activities only if they do not degrade the semi-primitive character of the area. |
| | 2. | Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the area was identified. |

Fire and Fuels

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| Guidelines | 1. | When possible, where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques, which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance. |
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2. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Infrastructure

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| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prohibit summer-motorized travel except when authorized by special use permit or for administrative or emergency purposes.2. Prohibit new system road construction or road reconstruction unless needed to honor existing rights. |
| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Allow motorized equipment, such as chainsaws and trail equipment, for maintenance, construction, and other management activities.2. Road construction is restricted to temporary road development for geophysical seismic projects. All temporary roads will be immediately reclaimed after use3. Restrict construction of facilities and structures that are not subordinate to the landscape. |

Minerals

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| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.2. Prohibit removal of mineral materials. |
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Recreation

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| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Manage for a summer ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized. Manage for a winter ROS of Semi-Primitive Motorized.2. Make all resource management activities compatible with recreation opportunities. Reduce impacts to other resources.3. Do not allow dispersed campsite condition to exceed Cole's Class 3. Close and re-vegetate Cole class 4 and 5.4. In order to maintain the semi-primitive quality of the area, discourage concentrated public use. |
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Scenery

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| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of High. |
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Special Uses

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| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prohibit new utility corridors. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

2. Prohibit new special-use facilities.
3. Discourage competitive contests and group events.

Transportation

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|------------|---|
| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. As funding allows, decommission and re-vegetate identified unneeded travelways.2. Prohibit ORV and other motorized non-winter uses. |
| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. After appropriate analysis and as funding allows, take the following actions, where needed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimize trail impacts to scenic resources,• Eliminate duplicate routes,• Remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.2. Provide only the minimum signing necessary to indicate directional information at trail junctions or to protect resources.3. Existing unneeded roads should be decommissioned or converted to trails. |

Vegetation

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|-----------|---|
| Standard | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity. |
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Allow the cutting or removal of trees under circumstances such as; to reduce fuel load and fire risk, especially adjacent to private land; to curtail imminent threat of insect attack; enhancing a scenic view from a prominent overlook, to maintain wildlife habitat diversity or maintenance of existing facilities. |

1.5 National River System, Wild Rivers Designated and Eligible

Theme – Wild Rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate designated and eligible river segments.

Setting – These areas have been identified as being eligible for wild river designation due to the presence of one or more outstanding, remarkable feature(s), including scenic, recreational, geological, wildlife, fisheries, historical, cultural or other values. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values but is at least one-quarter mile on either side of the river.

Desired Condition – The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance. Natural processes such as fire, insects, and disease will be allowed to influence vegetative composition and structure as long as they enhance or are compatible with wild river values. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

Opportunities for viewing wildlife will be excellent. Because of the proximity to streams, there will be a greater than average diversity of plant and animal species. The transportation system will remain in place with no new roads constructed.

Standards and Guidelines

General

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|-----------|--|
| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities unless they could be the basis for a recommendation against designation. 2. Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the area was identified. |
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Fire and Fuels

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|------------|--|
| Standard | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques that minimize soil and vegetation disturbance. |
| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the fire management strategy. 2. Focus wildland fire management activities on enhancing or protecting wild river characteristics. |

Infrastructure

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide bridges if necessary for user safety or to protect streamside areas but not just for user convenience. Use native, on-site materials to construct necessary bridges. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Integrated Pest Management

- Guideline 1. Allow natural processes, such as insects and disease, to occur.

Minerals

- Standard 1. Allow oil and gas leasing, however no ground disturbing activities are permitted within ¼ mile of National River System eligible wild rivers.

Rangelands

- Guidelines 1. Manage livestock grazing to minimize conflicts with wild river values.
2. Design rangeland improvements to be compatible with wild river values.

Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized.
2. Do not allow dispersed campsite condition to exceed Cole Class 3. Close and re-vegetate Cole class 4 and 5.
3. In order to maintain the semi-primitive quality of the area, discourage concentrated public use.
4. Conduct conservation education at trailheads and boat launches.
5. Discourage rafters from exiting the river near known bald eagle nests during the nesting period.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenery integrity objective of High.

Special Uses

- Standard 1. Authorize special uses only if compatible with wild river qualities and values.

Transportation

- Standard 1. As funding allows, decommission and re-vegetate identified unneeded travelways.

- Guidelines
1. After appropriate analysis, and as funding allows, take the following actions, where needed:
 - Minimize trail impacts to scenic resources;
 - Eliminate duplicate routes; and
 - Remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.
 2. Provide only the minimum signing necessary to indicate directional information at trailheads and boat launches to protect resources.

Vegetation

- Standard
1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.

Category 2

These areas conserve representative or particularly rare and narrowly distributed ecological settings or components that may play a key role in the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on the ecological processes are limited as much as possible but are sometimes evident. Type of human use varies but is generally not intensive. Travel is generally nonmotorized. Some of these areas provide a “natural” reference for other areas that are intensively managed for a particular objective. These areas are often formally designated as Research Natural areas or Special Interest Areas.

2.1 Special Interest Areas

Theme – Special Interest Areas (SIAs) are managed to protect or enhance unusual characteristics. Where appropriate, management emphasis may include developing and interpreting areas of unusual characteristics for public education and recreation.

Setting – These areas are managed to maintain their special interest values. SIAs have been identified as botanical, geological, historical, paleontological, scenic, or zoological areas. SIAs can be designated to protect and manage threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and other elements of biological diversity or for their emotional significance, scenic values, or public popularity. SIAs can vary from small to fairly large areas. In addition, places such as hot springs, cultural resource sites, significant views, or State-designated historic sites can be considered for Special Interest Area designation.

Desired Condition – Vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, soil productivity, and water quality will usually, but not always, appear natural. Natural processes such as fire and insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation where compatible with the SIA values. Vegetation manipulation may be used to maintain or restore natural conditions; to protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; or to protect other values for which the SIA was identified. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but is predominantly in mid seral to late seral stages of development. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

When necessary, management implementation guidelines will be developed for each SIA to ensure protection of the values for which the area was identified. Educational and interpretive activities will emphasize protection of the threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; sensitive habitats; and overall biological diversity. The attractive feature will be unaltered. Facilities will be present to the extent needed to maintain the area or facilitate visitor use of the area. Recreational use will primarily be interpretation, education, and inspirational activities.

Standards and Guidelines**General**

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and manage values for which the SIA was identified (e.g., biological, geological, historical, paleontological, etc.). 2. Allow uses and activities that maintain and enhance the characteristics for which the SIA was designated. 3. Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the SIA was identified. |
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Fire and Fuels

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy. 2. Focus wildland fire management activities on protecting the values for which the SIA was identified. 3. Use MIST (Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics) where practical. 4. Design fuel reduction projects to maintain or protect the values for which the SIA was identified. |
|------------|--|

Minerals

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Withdraw SIAs from entry for locatable minerals in conformance with Section 204 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-579) when withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the area was identified, subject to valid existing rights. 2. Allow oil and gas leasing with appropriate stipulations to protect the designated values of individual SIAs. 3. Prohibit removal of mineral materials. |
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Rangelands

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| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage livestock grazing to be compatible with the values for which the SIA was identified. |
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Recreation

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Standard | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow recreational use emphasizing interpretation and education when it does not conflict with the values for which the area was identified. |
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage for an ROS class as prescribed below for each SIA. |

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of High.

Special Uses

- Standards
1. Authorize only scientific or other activities that are compatible with the SIA values through special use permits.
 2. Do not permit new utility corridors or additional development within existing corridors. Existing corridors may be maintained until they are abandoned. Honor valid existing rights.
 3. Prohibit construction of new special use facilities except for valid existing rights.

Transportation

- Guideline 1. Construct new roads only when consistent with SIA values, such as interpretation or education.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives of maintaining or restoring the values for which the SIA was identified. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.

The following descriptions and management direction apply to the individual Special Interest Areas (SIAs) designated.

2.1a – Ashenfelder SIA: This SIA is designated because of its botanical and other (natural area) values. This is a natural area with very little current human activity. It is rugged, highly scenic, and nonmotorized. The area has large stands of ponderosa pine that have been impacted by beetles and wildfires. The area's naturalness is what makes it unique.

Additional Direction:

General

- Guideline 1. Limit fence construction to the protection of area values.

Minerals

- Standard 1. Withdraw from locatable mineral entry.

Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for an ROS class of Semi-primitive nonmotorized year-round.

Transportation

- Standard 1. Prohibit new road construction.

Vegetation

- Guideline 1. Encourage the proliferation of Laramie columbine.

2.1b – Cinnabar Park: The largest, most puzzling mountain meadow in the Medicine Bow National Forest is Cinnabar Park. Its origin is still not fully understood even though at least three studies have attempted to develop an explanation. The forest/meadow boundaries are sharp; there is little or no evidence of tree invasion. The value of this area for research and education is increased by the presence of, arguably, the world's longest ribbon forest and snowglade on the leeward side of the Park and by a burned forest (1975) of about 40 acres on the upwind side. Because of the ribbon forest/snowglade complex, the recent burn, and Cinnabar Park itself, this area is of great interest to students from nearby universities and from around the world.

Additional Direction:**Recreation**

- Guideline 1. Manage for a summer ROS class of Roaded Natural, manage for a winter ROS class of Semi-primitive Motorized.

2.1c – Ribbon Forest: This area is designated for its geological, botanical, zoological, research, and scenic values. The Ribbon Forest SIA is located in the Snowy Range on the Laramie Ranger District. Elevations in the area range from 10,200 feet at the northern boundary to 11,100 feet along portions of the southern boundary. Impacts and disturbance from human activities (hiking, dispersed camping, hunting, and recent sheep grazing) are minimal. Important features of the area include old growth Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir forests and bands of ribbon forests with an Engelmann spruce overstory and grouse whortleberry understory. Both forested types are scattered among a mosaic of subalpine meadows, wetlands, and grasslands. Trees in the ribbons often have a 'krummholz' appearance. Trees in the ribbon forest are aligned perpendicular to the prevailing westerly winds and function as snow fences. Heavy snow accumulations typically inhibit seedling establishment on the lee sides of the tree rows while the snowmelt enhances tree growth within the ribbons. The ribbon forests in the area represent some of the oldest forests in the Snowy Range, with trees dating from 150 to 300 years old.

Additional Direction:

Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for a summer ROS class of Semi-primitive Nonmotorized, and for a winter ROS class of Semi-primitive Motorized.

Transportation

- Standard 1. Prohibit new road construction

2.1d – Medicine Bow Peak: This SIA is designated because of its botanical values. It is the best example of alpine tundra in the Medicine Bow National Forest. It contains the unusual and rare species *Carex arapahoensis*, *Agrostis borealis*, *Chionophila jamesii*, and *Haplopappus pygmaeus*.

Additional Direction:

Recreation

- Standard 1. Manage for a summer ROS class of semi-primitive non-motorized and for a winter ROS class of Semi-primitive Motorized.

2.1e – White Rock Canyon: This SIA is designated because of its geologic, scenic, and wildlife values. The area is located in the northern portion of the Snowy Range, eight miles southwest of Arlington. The area contains steep sandstone cliffs and outcroppings as well as scenic views of Elk Mountain and the high plains to the north. Vegetation ranges from sagebrush communities to mountain shrub communities to coniferous forests. Because of this habitat mix, the area can support a wide range of wildlife species.

Additional Direction:

Rangelands

- Standard 1. Prohibit a net increase in livestock concentration projects such as water developments.
- Guideline 1. Manage livestock grazing to maintain or improve wildlife habitat.

Recreation

- Standard 1. Manage for a summer ROS class of semi-primitive non-motorized and a winter ROS class of Semi-primitive Nonotorized and Semi-primitive Motorized (along FSR 111).

2.If – Kettle Ponds: This SIA is designated because of its geological, botanical, and zoological values. Most of the kettle ponds are located in the Stillwater Park/Long Lake area and immediately west of Turpin Reservoir; elevations range from 9,000 feet to approximately 9,500 feet. The kettle ponds are glacial relics that complement other glacial features in this portion of the Medicine Bow Mountains. The area contains an abundant population of wood frogs - an R2 sensitive amphibian. Indian pond lily (*Nuphar* sp.), a strikingly beautiful, flowering aquatic plant, is more abundant in the kettle pond area than in any other location on the Forest. The kettle pond area supports diverse aquatic floral and faunal communities and constitutes what is likely the most densely populated pond habitat in the Medicine Bow Mountains.

Additional Direction:

General

- Standard 1. Prohibit any chemical applications within the SIA.

Minerals

- Guideline 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.

Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Discourage dispersed camping within 100 feet of live water.
2. Work with Wyoming Game and Fish Department to enhance suitable fishing locations.
3. Manage for a summer ROS class of Roaded Natural, and a winter ROS class of Semi-primitive Motorized on designated trails, Semi-primitive Nonmotorized off trails.

Infrastructure

- Standard 1. Prohibit any increase in road density.

2.Ig – Tramway Trail: This SIA is designated because of historic copper mining. In 1884, copper was discovered west of Encampment in the Sierra Madre Mountains. There was an aerial tramway, 16 miles long that carried copper ore from the Ferris-Haggarty mine to a smelter in Encampment. The mine and many of the tram towers and equipment are still visible.

Additional Direction:

Fire and Fuels

- Guideline 1. Use direct control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Recreation

- Guidelines
1. Manage for a summer ROS class of semi-primitive motorized and Roaded Modified, and a winter ROS class of Semi-primitive Motorized.
 2. Maintain existing and develop new interpretive trails as needed.

2.1h – Roper Cabin: The Roper Place (also called Echo Lodge) is the oldest lodge on the Medicine Bow National Forest. It is located approximately five miles south of Keystone, Albany County. The site is approximately 60 acres in size and contains one barn, one lodge, four cabins, one skid shack, four outhouses, one gravesite, one earthen dam and associated canal system, several prospect pits, and scattered debris.

Additional Direction:

Fire and Fuels

- Guideline
1. Use direct control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Recreation

- Guideline
1. Manage for a summer ROS class of Roaded Natural, and a winter ROS class of Semi-primitive Motorized.

2.1i-k – Douglas Creek, Horse Creek, and Muddy Park Tie Dams: There are 3 (Muddy Park, Horse Creek, Upper Douglas Creek) standing tie or splash dams located on the Laramie Ranger District. All three dams are in excellent condition with only minor breaches. The dams were designed, constructed, and operated by local woodsmen in the early 1920s. The dams were constructed at the headwaters of the respective streams, creating reservoirs of water behind them. Concurrently with the melting of the winter accumulation of snow and the spring rains, the dams were opened at their gates to flush the streams below. On this elevated and swifter current of water, the crossties and logs were driven (floated) downstream to Douglas Creek and the North Platte River to the railhead at Fort Fred Steele. The dams were filled and opened several times during the driving season. Local materials were also used to construct the dams. The cribbed headgates were constructed with round logs filled with boulders and rocks. The sluiceway was controlled with a lift gate. The wings of the dam were constructed with round log posts and a brace sheathed with wooden slabs (board and batten) and the face was then covered with five to six feet of dirt.

Additional Direction:**Fire and Fuels**

- Guideline 1. Use direct control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for a summer ROS class of Roaded Natural (Horse Creek and Muddy Park) and Roaded Modified (Douglas Creek), and a winter ROS class of Semi-primitive Motorized (all).

2.11 – Sunken Gardens: This SIA is designated because of its botanical, wildlife, and scenic values. This very wet drainage contains numerous small ponds that support important amphibian habitat. Willow shrubs and scattered aspen, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine surround these ponds. National Forest System Road 517 provides access to the southern boundary of the drainage and provides a wonderful view into the Centennial Valley looking north.

Additional Direction:**Minerals**

- Guideline 1. Prohibit ground-disturbing activities such as road construction and well pad construction, which would impact wetland habitats.

Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-primitive nonmotorized.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Develop turnouts (overlooks) for interpretation along FDR 517.

2.1m – Centennial Ridge: This SIA is designated for its historic values. The gold rush on Centennial Ridge began in late 1874, with the first claims staked on January 1, 1875. A stamp mill and tramway were in operation at the site by fall of 1875, and a post office and polling place soon followed. Eventually, a hotel, dining hall, and a stage line were established, followed by cabins, a boarding house, store, stables, and a blacksmith's shop. However, the initial discovery of gold proved rich, but limited. A second rush of mining activity occurred in the 1920s with prospectors looking for platinum and palladium. Many of the mining camps on the ridge contain standing structures, as well as abandoned mining equipment. The area is unique in that many of the structures are in remarkably good condition or contain many elements missing in camps found in other parts of the Forest. To this day, mining continues on Centennial Ridge.

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Additional Direction:

Fire and Fuels

Guideline 1. Use direct control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Recreation

Guideline 1. Manage for a summer ROS class of Semi-primitive motorized and Semi-primitive nonmotorized.

2.2 Research Natural Areas

Theme – Research Natural Areas (RNAs) form a long-term network of ecological reserves designated for non-manipulative research and education and the maintenance of biological diversity.

Setting – RNAs are selected to preserve a spectrum of relatively pristine areas that represent a wide range of natural variability within natural ecosystems and environments (coniferous forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, aquatic, and geological environments) and areas that have special or unique characteristics of scientific importance. RNAs are also selected for one or more of the following reasons: to serve as reference areas for evaluating the range of natural variability and the impacts of management in similar environments; to protect and maintain representative and key elements of biological diversity at the genetic, species, population, community, or ecosystem levels; to serve as study areas for ecosystems and ecological processes, including succession; to provide on-site and extensive educational activities; and to serve as baseline areas for measuring ecological change.

Desired Condition – RNAs will be managed to maintain natural conditions by allowing ecological processes to prevail with minimal human intervention. However, under some circumstances, deliberate manipulation may be utilized to maintain the ecosystem or unique features for which the RNA was established or to re-establish natural ecological processes. Vegetation, habitat, soil productivity, water quality, and ecological processes will be in natural condition (within the range of natural variability). Specific management direction addressing fire and other practices will be developed for RNAs as part of the establishment record or in separate management implementation guidelines.

Standards and Guidelines

General

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect the natural condition of the ecosystem, its processes, and any species or values for which the RNA was established. 2. Until formal establishment, manage proposed RNAs to maintain and enhance the character and ecological values for which the areas have been identified. 3. Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the RNA was identified. 4. Allow uses that maintain or improve the ecological characteristics for which the RNA was designated. |
|-----------|---|

Fire and Fuels

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Standard | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques, which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- Guidelines
1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy.
 2. Use prescribed fire when it is necessary to restore a natural fire regime.
 3. Consult the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Research Station on all prescribed fire plans.

Infrastructure

- Standard
1. Prohibit buildings and developed recreation sites unless there are exceptional circumstances, which do not threaten RNA values (such as historic sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places).

Integrated Pest Management

- Standard
1. Allow natural outbreaks of native insects and diseases to proceed without intervention.

Minerals

- Standards
1. When withdrawal is necessary to protect the values, for which the area was designated, request withdrawal from mineral entry in conformance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-576).
 2. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.
 3. Prohibit removal of mineral materials.
 4. Once RNAs are established, they will be withdrawn from mineral entry.

Rangelands

- Standard
1. Do not increase animal unit months (AUMs) or developments unless determined necessary in the Research Natural Area management plan. Grazing suitability and desired vegetative conditions will be determined by the Research Natural Area management plan.

Recreation

- Standards
1. Allow pedestrian/equestrian recreation, except where it is a threat to the values for which the RNA was established.

- 2. Allow recreation, scientific, or educational access on trails, which existed prior to RNA proposal, unless the access poses a threat to RNA values.
- 3. Use restrictions and closures when necessary to protect the area from actual or potential damage due to public use.
- Guideline 1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of High.

Special Uses

- Standard 1. Only issue permits for special uses if they do not conflict with RNA values.

Transportation

- Standards
 - 1. Limit all motorized use, including snowmobiles, to administrative, law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency, and scientific purposes.
 - 2. Prohibit the construction of new trails, except where construction of new trails is necessary to correct resource damage from existing trails.
- Guideline 1. Close or decommission existing roads, except where they provide necessary access for scientific or educational purposes.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Prohibit logging and firewood gathering activities.

Wildlife

- Standard 1. Allow, but do not encourage, hunting and fishing, except when they are a threat to the RNA values.

Battle Mountain

The 1,204-acre Battle Mountain RNA is located on the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District and the South Savery Geographic Area. The principal distinguishing features of the area are a volcanic butte supporting a mosaic of plant communities. Quaking aspen woodland, lodgepole pine forest, mountain big sagebrush shrubland, and bluebunch wheatgrass vegetation occur primarily on top of Battle Mountain. Subalpine fir woodland, limber pine woodland, and Saskatoon serviceberry shrubland occur mainly on the sides of the mountain.

LaBonte Canyon

The 3,023-acre LaBonte Canyon RNA is located on the Douglas District and within the LaBonte Creek Geographic Area. The principal distinguishing feature of the RNA is a steep walled valley. The northern side of the valley is a mixture of big sagebrush stands, antelope bitterbrush stands, Rocky Mountain juniper shrublands, ponderosa pine woodlands, and rock outcrops. The southern side of the valley is forested with lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine woodlands. Riparian woodlands grow along the stream in the valley bottom.

Browns Peak

This 472-acre RNA is located on the Brush Creek Hayden District and is within the Bow River Geographic Area. It is characterized by alpine fellfield, tundra, and willow habitats. Known occurrences of rare animals include the brown-capped rosy finch, dwarf shrew, pygmy shrew, and Medicine Bow Mountain pika. This area has rare plants including: Golden saxifrage, black-head fleabane, Rocky Mountain snowlover, pygmy goldenweed, northern white rush, Rocky Mountain nailwort, Arctic harebell, alpine kittentails, and Dane's gentian.

Platte Canyon

The 8,982-acre Platte Canyon RNA is located on the Laramie Ranger District and within the Platte River Geographic Area. The principal features of the area include a mosaic of upland forest, woodlands, and shrublands, and a narrow riparian corridor in North Platte River Canyon. This area was selected to fill gaps in the following community types: Douglas-fir series, aspen series, narrowleaf cottonwood series, Rocky Mountain juniper series, big sagebrush series, antelope bitterbrush series, Idaho fescue series, thinleaf alder series, Booth's willow series, water sedge series, and bluepoint reedgrass series. The RNA also provides habitat for boreal western toad, bald eagle, and peregrine falcon.

Savage Run

The 1,061-acre Savage Run RNA is located on the Laramie Ranger District within the Platte River Geographic Area. The principal distinguishing feature of the area is that it is almost entirely covered by lodgepole pine. The area also contains subalpine fir-Engelmann spruce/elk sedge, subalpine fir-Engelmann spruce/grouse whortleberry phase Ross sedge, and lodgepole pine/elk sedge.

Snowy Range

The 734-acre Snowy Range Natural Area (1985 Plan says 771 acres but a recent land survey indicates 734) was established in January 1936 for the purpose of studying old-growth Engelmann spruce stands. It is located on the Laramie Ranger District within the North Fork Geographic Area. The area is comprised of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, and very small areas of grassland, shrubland, and lakes.

Category 3

Ecological values are in balance with human occupancy and consideration is given for both. Resource management activities occur, but natural ecological processes and patterns will normally predominate, resulting in a landscape with an overall natural appearance but some evidence of human activities. Natural patterns or ecological processes are maintained or restored if not present as a result of management activities. Forest users may expect to experience some isolation from the sight and sounds of humans in a setting that offers some challenge and risk. Motorized travel restrictions and opportunities vary from area to area and season to season.

3.31 Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized

Theme – Backcountry, motorized recreation areas are managed to provide recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails in a landscape with a natural appearance.

Setting – These backcountry areas provide challenging motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails.

Desired Condition – The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed or slightly disturbed by human activity. Vegetation will be influenced by fire according to site-specific objectives. Insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

There will be opportunities to experience solitude as well as opportunities presenting a high degree of challenge and risk and requiring self-reliance. Facilities will be minimal to disperse use. Dispersed camping may occur throughout the area. There may be excellent opportunities for fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Improvements to enhance recreation opportunities may include motorized trails, parking areas and information, interpretive, and directional signs, but improvements will be minimal. Interpretation and education in these areas will provide a link between wildlife, resource management, and historic uses.

The transportation system will remain in place with no new classified roads constructed. Trails will be primitive, providing varied levels of difficulty for off-road vehicle use and nonmotorized use. Motorized trails are provided and managed for a variety of motorized experiences while maintaining a relatively undisturbed backcountry experience. Both snowmobiling and cross-country skiing will be allowed. Skiers should expect to encounter snowmobiles.

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Standards and Guidelines

General

- Standards
1. Allow uses and activities only if they do not degrade the primitive character of the area.
 2. Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the area is identified.

Fire and Fuels

- Standard
1. When possible, where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques, which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance.
- Guideline
1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Infrastructure

- Standard
1. Prohibit new road construction or existing road reconstruction unless needed to honor existing rights.
- Guideline
1. Allow new motorized trails but maintain semi-primitive conditions.

Minerals

- Standard
1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.

Recreation

- Guidelines
1. Manage for an ROS class of Semi-Primitive Motorized, or Roaded Natural along main Forest Service roads.
 2. Make all resource management activities compatible with recreation opportunities. Minimize impacts to other resources.

Scenery

- Guideline
1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Moderate.

Special Uses

- Guideline
1. In order to maintain the semi-primitive quality of the area, discourage competitive and group events.

Transportation

- Guideline 1. After appropriate analysis, and if funding allows, take the following actions, where needed:
- a. Minimize trail impacts to scenic resources;
 - b. Eliminate duplicate routes;
 - c. Remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.
- Guidelines 1. Conduct management activities to simulate natural vegetation patterns and patch sizes.
2. Allow the cutting or removal of trees under circumstances such as; to reduce fuel load and fire risk, especially adjacent to private land; to curtail imminent threat of insect attack; enhancing a scenic view from a prominent overlook, to maintain wildlife habitat diversity or maintenance of existing facilities.

3.33 Backcountry Recreation, Summer Motorized with Winter Nonmotorized

Theme – Backcountry recreation areas are managed to provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape. Motorized use is allowed in summer. Motorized use is not allowed in winter; this includes snowmobiles.

Setting – These areas are previously managed parts of the Forest that can be as large as 2,500 acres or larger, in a variety of settings at different elevations. These areas have roads, which can be part of a summer motorized trail system. They are important for providing backcountry-motorized recreation near the semi-primitive end of the recreation opportunity spectrum.

Desired Condition – A variety of plant communities, structural stages, and associated wildlife occur in historically managed areas. Prescribed fires may be used to mimic natural disturbance regimes. For short time periods, some vegetation manipulation resembling natural patterns may occur, but may not be noticeable during snow months. The amount and arrangement of successional stages vary greatly depending on the amount and timing of disturbances and how openings re-vegetate. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

Encounters between individuals or parties are occasional on trail systems. There is a low to moderate probability of experiencing solitude, experiencing risk, challenge, and for self-reliance. Seasonal restrictions for resource protection may occur. Few contacts occur away from travelways. Sounds from people or motorized recreational activities can be expected during months with no snow.

Facilities are minimal and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signs, are present, but are rustic in style. Trailheads providing access to these areas are outside the area and offer information and directional signing.

New travelways may be constructed to enhance motorized recreation, prevent damage to resources, or provide access. Marked travelways provide for a variety of motorized uses and challenge levels. Most routes are designed for motorized trail uses, and will loop, run point-to-point, or seek to link with other management areas or developed sites.

Generally, non-recreational special uses such as electronic sites and utility corridors are excluded from these areas. As opportunities arise, acquire inholdings, or adjacent lands to maintain or improve Semi-Primitive Motorized recreational opportunities or to prevent development that would diminish semi-primitive experiences on NFS lands. Acquire lands or rights-of-ways that are needed to meet resource management goals and objectives and enhance access to recreational opportunities.

Standards and Guidelines**Fire and Fuels**

- Guidelines
1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques, which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance.
 2. Utilize appropriate fuel management practices, including prescribed fire, to achieve resource management objectives.
 3. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Infrastructure

- Standard
1. Prohibit over-the-snow motorized travel.
- Guideline
1. Both motorized and nonmotorized summer routes may be designated.

Minerals

- Standard
1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.

Recreation

- Guidelines
1. Make all resource management activities compatible with recreation opportunities; minimize impacts to other resources.
 2. Discourage concentrated use.
 3. Manage for an ROS class of Rural, Roaded Modified, Roaded Natural, and Semi-Primitive Motorized in summer. Manage for an ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized in winter.

Scenery

- Guideline
1. Meet the Scenic Integrity Objective of Moderate.

Special uses

- Standards
1. Prohibit new special use facilities.
 2. Phase out all non-conforming special uses as permits expire.
 3. Prohibit utility corridors.

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Vegetation

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Standard | 1. | Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity. |
| Guideline | 1. | Use vegetative management practices, usually to meet specific recreation and wildlife objectives, which generally maintain a mature forest appearance. Use timber harvest to prevent or respond to epidemic insect conditions which could threaten resource objectives within or adjacent to the management area. |

Wildlife

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Guideline | 1. | Encourage habitat improvement projects that increase the potential for viewing a variety of wildlife species. |
|-----------|----|---|

3.4 National River System, Scenic Rivers Designated and Eligible

Theme – Scenic Rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate designated or eligible scenic river segments.

Setting – These areas have been identified as being eligible for scenic river designation due to the presence of one or more outstanding, remarkable feature(s); including scenic, recreational, geological, wildlife, fisheries, historical, cultural or other values. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values but is at least one-quarter mile on either side of the river.

Desired Conditions – A variety of plant communities, structural stages, and associated wildlife will be present in patterns maintained primarily through ecological processes. Natural processes such as fire, insects, and disease will influence vegetative composition and structure provided they enhance or are compatible with scenic river values. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development. Scenic rivers will be free of impoundments. Shorelines will be largely primitive and undeveloped but may be accessible by roads in some places. Roads may be visible as short conspicuous sections or longer more inconspicuous and well-screened stretches. The portion of the watershed within the boundary of the scenic river may have some discernible existing development. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

Standards and Guidelines

General

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities unless they could be the basis for a recommendation against designation. 2. Reclaim disturbed lands to a condition suitable for the purposes for which the area was identified. |
|-----------|--|

Fire and Fuels

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus wildland fire management activities on enhancing or protecting scenic river characteristics. 2. When possible, where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques that minimize soil and vegetation disturbance. 3. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Integrated Pest Management

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| Guideline | 1. Focus pest management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting scenic river characteristics. |
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Minerals

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|-----------|---|
| Standards | 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted within ¼ mile of National River System eligible scenic rivers. |
| | 2. Allow locatable mineral activities. Minimize surface disturbance, sedimentation, and pollution, and maintain the visual character. |

Rangelands

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|------------|---|
| Guidelines | 1. Manage livestock grazing to minimize conflicts with scenic river values. |
| | 2. Design rangeland improvements to be compatible with scenic river values. |

Recreation

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Guidelines | 1. Manage for an ROS class of Roaded Natural, Semi-Primitive motorized or Semi-Primitive Non-motorized, as mapped. |
| | 2. Do not allow dispersed campsite condition to exceed Cole's Class 3. Close and re-vegetate Cole class 4 and 5. |
| | 3. Discourage concentrated public use. |
| | 4. Allow pedestrian, equestrian, and mountain bike recreation except when it is a threat to the scenic river values. |
| | 5. Conduct conservation education activities at trailheads and boat launches to encourage appropriate uses and behaviors. |
| | 6. Discourage rafters from exiting the river near known bald eagle nests during nesting periods. |

Scenery

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Guideline | 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Moderate. |
|-----------|---|

Special Uses

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Standards | 1. Authorize special uses only if compatible with scenic river qualities and values. |
|-----------|--|

2. Discourage competitive contest and group events.

Transportation

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Standard | 1. As funding allows, decommission and re-vegetate identified unneeded travelways. |
| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After appropriate analysis, and as funding allows, take the following actions, where needed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minimize trail impacts to scenic resources; b. Eliminate duplicate routes; and c. Remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged. 2. Provide only the minimum signing necessary to indicate directional information at trailheads and boat launches to protect resources. |

Vegetation

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Standard | 1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity. |
|----------|--|

3.5 Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats, Limited Snowmobiling

Theme – Management emphasis is to provide adequate amounts of quality forage, cover, escape terrain, solitude, breeding habitat, and protection for a wide variety of wildlife species and plant communities.

Setting – Insect and disease losses are generally accepted unless they threaten communities, which are providing important habitat components. A variety of fire sizes and shapes result from natural and human ignitions. Disturbances may be fairly evident and the scale may vary from small to large. There are very few developed or designated recreational facilities. Restrictions and controls are noticeable.

Desired Condition – Provide quality, all season habitat for wildlife species. Increase or maintain plant communities and structural stages to provide foraging areas, cover, and areas of solitude in patterns across the landscape.

Provide for a variety of forest and rangeland plant communities and successional stages through a combination of human manipulation and natural processes. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

Protect areas and communities that provide important habitat such as wintering areas, birthing areas (especially for calving, fawning, lambing, and kidding), rearing areas, and migration routes.

Provide for development of future late-successional forest conditions.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

- Guideline 1. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Recreation

- Standard 1. Limit snowmobiling to designated over-the-snow routes.
- Guideline 1. Manage for an ROS class of Roaded Natural, Semi-Primitive Motorized or Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized as mapped.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Moderate.

Vegetation

- Guidelines 1. Allow, through natural processes and succession, or encourage, through vegetation treatments, the development of lodgepole pine and spruce-fir forests to provide diversity of forest habitats.

2. Design and implement silvicultural treatments to meet wildlife objectives for vertical structure, stand density, age class distribution, spatial pattern, or other habitat goals.
3. In areas burned by wildfire, provide habitat for post fire animal and plant communities in the design of salvage sales. Consider the historic levels of post burn habitat and the role of this habitat at various intervals following the fire.
4. Limit vegetation treatment in inventoried and mapped spruce-fir or lodgepole pine old growth stands.

Wildlife

- Guidelines
1. Avoid construction of new system roads except where access is required by law.
 2. Discourage or prohibit human activities and travel, where needed, to allow effective habitat use by wildlife species especially during the seasons when the animals are sensitive to disturbance.
 3. Emphasize management activities that create, maintain, or enhance habitats and age classes that are under represented at the scale of the Forest or mountain range.
 4. Use fire, thinning, timber sales, grazing, and other tools to maintain or restore habitat to conditions within the expected range of variation.
 5. Cluster disturbance in time and space to maintain security areas.
 6. Restrict firewood collection where snags and/or downed wood are below the desired conditions for the forest cover type.

3.54 Special Wildlife Areas (Sheep Mountain)

Theme – The Sheep Mountain area is designated as a National Game Refuge, and its habitat is managed by the U.S. Forest Service for the protection and propagation of game animals and birds [Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming (Seventh Proclamation) by the President of the United States of America (Calvin Coolidge), August 8th, 1924].

Setting – Sheep Mountain is bordered on the west and north by the Centennial Valley and by the Laramie Plains on the east. The topography of Sheep Mountain is extremely rough and steep, dissected by numerous gulches and ravines. The mountain contains several sizeable canyons formed by the drainages of Johns Creek, Buckeye Creek, Hecht Creek, and Fence Creek. The area has been withdrawn from locatable minerals entry.

Desired Condition – The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed by human activity. This area will continue to emphasize habitat management for deer and elk. The goal is to optimize habitat effectiveness for deer, elk and other desired native and non-native species.

Activities may include burning, habitat manipulation, and limited nonmotorized recreation. Vegetation characteristics will be managed to provide optimum habitat for the selected species or to meet population goals jointly agreed to with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Vegetative treatments will be applied to increase forage production of existing grass, forbs, and browse species or to alter plant species composition consistent with the historic range of variability of the area. Prescribed burning, seeding, spraying, planting, and mechanical treatments may occur. Intermittent or occasional livestock grazing may be used to help achieve vegetative conditions for big game, but no new water developments or fencing will be used. Browse stands will be regenerated to maintain a variety of age classes and species.

Natural processes such as fire and insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation where compatible with the Refuge values. Vegetation manipulation may be used to maintain or restore natural conditions or to protect other values for which the refuge was designated. Human activities will be managed so that deer and elk can effectively use the area. Recreation and other human activities will be regulated to favor the needs of the designated species. New roads will be located outside the management area. Nonmotorized recreation use will be managed to prevent unacceptable stress on big game animals.

Habitat management goals will be developed by the Forest Service in consultation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and adjacent private landowners to minimize resource conflicts on and off National Forest System lands.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

- Guidelines 1. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy.

2. Focus wildland fire management activities on protecting the values for which this refuge was designated.

Infrastructure

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|-----------|----|--|
| Standard | 1. | Prohibit construction of new fences, water developments or trails. |
| Guideline | 1. | Retain existing structures, which are compatible with the semi-primitive nature and naturalness of the area. |

Integrated Pest Management

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|-----------|----|---|
| Standards | 1. | Allow natural outbreaks of native insects and diseases to proceed without intervention, unless they are a substantial threat to important resources inside or adjacent to the management area boundary. |
| | 2. | Use pest control or containment methods, which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance. |

Minerals

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Standards | 1. | Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted. |
| | 2. | Prohibit removal of minerals materials. |
| | 3. | Withdraw area from entry for locatable minerals. |

Recreation

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|------------|----|--|
| Standard | 1. | Prohibit motorized use yearlong. |
| Guidelines | 1. | Allow pedestrian/equestrian/mountain bike recreation, except when it is a threat to the values for which the refuge was established. |
| | 2. | Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized. |
| | 3. | Discourage concentrated public use yearlong. |

Scenery

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| Guideline | 1. | Meet the scenic integrity objective of High. |
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Special Uses

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| Standard | 1. | Prohibit new electronic sites and utility corridors. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- Guideline 1. Authorize special uses only if compatible with the refuge objectives. Do not authorize special use activities for the winter and spring periods.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.
- Guideline 1. Allow the cutting or removal of trees under circumstances such as; to reduce fuel load and fire risk, especially adjacent to private land; to curtail imminent threat of insect attack; enhancing a scenic view from a prominent overlook, to maintain wildlife habitat diversity or maintenance of existing facilities.

3.56 Aspen Maintenance and Enhancement

Theme – These areas are managed to develop a range of successional stages of aspen from seedlings to mature and old growth stands.

Setting – Aspen and other hardwoods and shrubs are commonly seen growing around rock outcrops, in draws and drainages, and in patches of clones with variable sizes.

Desired Condition – Aspen, and other hardwoods and shrubs, will be managed to produce healthy stands at various successional stages. Maintaining or increasing aspen clones will be emphasized. Vegetation treatment of forested areas will be used to create a forest environment that consists of stands of aspen trees in a variety of age classes and sizes. Treated clones will vary in location to maintain natural-appearing diversity in age classes. Fire will influence landscape vegetation patterns according to site-specific objectives, including aspen regeneration and wildlife benefit. Insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation, unless the long-term aspen resource is threatened.

Activities in these areas will include hunting, firewood gathering, winter recreation and aspen viewing. Manage and incorporate wildlife habitat requirements for birds and small animals in aspen treatment. Domestic livestock grazing and big game use in treated aspen stands will be closely managed to allow for adequate regeneration. Big game use will be monitored and the Forest Service will work cooperatively with Wyoming Game and Fish in the development of herd objectives and herd distribution management to meet desired vegetation conditions. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

Roads will range from native surface to those with maintained, gravel surfaces. Some of these roads will remain open; others will be closed seasonally or permanently. Both motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be provided. Dispersed recreation opportunities include motorized use, on roads, and nonmotorized activities throughout. Opportunities for multiple-use trails will exist. These areas provide opportunities for dispersed camping.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

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| Guideline | 1. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy. |
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Rangelands

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| Guideline | 1. Adjust livestock and wildlife grazing to enhance aspen regeneration. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for an ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, or Roaded Modified as mapped in summer. Manage for an ROS class of Semi-Primitive Motorized in winter.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Moderate.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.
- Guideline 1. Conduct aspen management activities in the most economically efficient manner.

3.58 Crucial Deer and Elk Winter Range

Theme – These areas are managed to provide adequate amounts of quality forage, cover, and solitude for deer, elk, and other species. These areas were as identified by the State of Wyoming Game and Fish.

Setting – Multiple-use principles are applied to emphasize habitat management for deer and elk. The areas include lands classified as winter ranges, areas used during light winters.

Desired Condition – Vegetation will be managed to provide healthy plant communities with a variety of species present for use as food and cover. Human activities will be managed so that deer and elk can effectively use the area. Activities may include burning, rangeland vegetation management, timber harvest, habitat manipulation, recreation, minerals exploration and development, and road management. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

These areas will provide sufficient habitat and protection from disturbance to support the population and management objectives for wintering deer, elk and other species. The Forest Service develops these objectives in consultation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The Forest Service will also cooperate with permittees, owners of adjacent or intermingled, privately owned land to minimize resource conflicts on and off National Forest System lands, to provide recreation opportunities, and to provide for a diversity of plant and animal communities.

Standards and Guidelines

General

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|-----------|--|
| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restrict intensive management activities such as timber harvest or road construction during the winter and spring periods (November 15-April 30) where conflicts with wintering wildlife are identified. 2. Allow uses and activities only if they do not degrade the characteristics for which the area was designated. |
|-----------|--|

Fire and Fuels

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|-----------|---|
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy. |
|-----------|---|

Infrastructure

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limit fence density by allowing new fence construction only to facilitate protection, public safety, or habitat protection or enhancement. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Minerals

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|-----------|----|---|
| Standards | 1. | Minimize or mitigate impacts to deer and elk habitat in mineral operating and reclamation plans. Seasonal restrictions may be used to minimize disturbance. |
| | 2. | Limit oil and gas exploration and development to periods when deer and elk are not concentrated in the area. |
| Guideline | 1. | Remotely monitor production sites, where reasonable and feasible. |

Rangelands

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Standard | 1. | Include achievement of wildlife goals for deer and elk in grazing strategies. |
| Guideline | 1. | Where possible, develop livestock grazing systems in cooperation with federal, state and local agencies, permittees, and private landowners to ensure that all lands are considered when determining vegetation management objectives for the area. |

Recreation

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Standards | 1. | Close existing recreation facilities within winter range during the winter and/or spring periods. |
| | 2. | Permit recreation facilities needed to support summer recreation activities, but close them during periods when deer and elk are present in concentrated numbers. |
| | 3. | Do not allow construction of new recreation facilities. |
| Guideline | 1. | Manage for a summer ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized or Semi-Primitive Motorized. In winter, manage for a ROS of Semi-Primitive nonmotorized. |

Scenery

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Guideline | 1. | Meet the scenic integrity objective of Moderate. |
|-----------|----|--|

Transportation

- | | | |
|------------|----|--|
| Standard | 1. | Restrict motorized use to designated routes as identified in Geographic Area direction from November 15 –April 30. |
| Guidelines | 1. | Close roads, as needed, to prevent disturbance during the winter and during fawning/calving periods. |

2. Avoid constructing new roads through important forage, cover, and fawning/calving areas.

Vegetation

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Standards | 1. | Design activities to maintain or improve habitat. |
| | 2. | Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity. |
| Guideline | 1. | Design changes in tree cover such that new stands will provide good quality cover consistent with the capability of sites. |

Category 4

Ecological values are managed to provide recreational use but are maintained well within the levels necessary to sustain overall ecological systems. Resource use for other values is not emphasized and has little impact on ecological structure, function, or composition. Human use is recreation-oriented. Sights and sounds of people are to be expected and may even be desired. Motorized transportation is common.

4.2 Scenery

Theme – Areas are managed for scenic values and recreation uses of designated scenic byways and other heavily used scenic travel corridors.

Setting – These areas occur where outstanding scenic features draw attention and use. They are scenic byways, high quality scenic areas, and/or vistas noted for outstanding physical features. They include transportation corridors such as highways or Forest roads.

Desired Condition – The landscape will provide high-quality scenery, while allowing multiple-use management such as timber harvest, wildlife management, recreation activities, mineral extraction, and livestock grazing to occur. Many of these uses and their interactions will maintain the scenic beauty for which the area is designated.

The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed or slightly disturbed by human activity. Vegetation management will enhance the scenic resource and blend with the natural landscape. Fire will influence landscape vegetation patterns according to site-specific objectives. Insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation unless the scenic resource is threatened. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development. Travelways will be clearly marked and maintained to facilitate large numbers of visitors. Recreation facilities may include scenic overlooks, interpretive signing, and rest areas; however, all management activities will be designed to blend and harmonize with the natural environment. Developed campgrounds will be screened from the main travelway.

Opportunities to view wildlife will be encouraged, but may be limited to those species that are common and/or accustomed to the presence of people. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance. Interpretation will emphasize habitat types. Some roads or portions of roads will be closed seasonally for protection of the road surface or to protect critical wildlife habitat.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

- Guideline 1. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Infrastructure

- Guidelines 1. Locate new facilities off the main travelway. Design them to be unobtrusive.
2. Construct and maintain facilities to support recreation activities, which meet the ROS class for the area.

Integrated Pest Management

- Guideline 1. Focus pest management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting the scenic quality of the area.

Minerals

- Guideline 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, activities may be located to meet scenic integrity objectives.

Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Roaded Natural or Rural, as mapped.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Moderate.

Transportation

- Guideline 1. Design proposed roads and trails to blend with the landscape.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.

Wildlife

- Guideline 1. Encourage habitat improvement projects that increase opportunities for wildlife viewing, habitat management, and interpretation, fishing, and hunting.

4.3 Dispersed Recreation

Theme – Dispersed recreation areas are managed to provide undeveloped recreation opportunities in landscapes that are natural or have a natural appearance.

Setting – These areas are often located near natural attractions such as lakes and streams. Dispersed recreational opportunities include viewing scenery and wildlife, dispersed camping, picnicking, fishing, biking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.

Desired Condition – Vegetation composition and structure will be managed to meet the recreational objectives for the area and maintain vegetation cover and soil stability. These areas will appear as a natural landscape over large areas. Modifications on a small scale will be acceptable when they blend with the area's natural features. Insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation unless resource management objectives are threatened. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

Opportunities to view wildlife will be encouraged but may be limited to those species that are common and/or accustomed to the presence of people. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance. Interpretation will feature habitat types.

These areas will be characterized by easy access and will be capable of sustaining a relatively high number of recreationists. Opportunities for solitude will be limited due to frequent contact with other users. Few facilities will be provided in dispersed areas, except to provide for health and sanitation or to protect the area from resource damage.

The travel system will include trails, some of which will be designated specifically for nonmotorized use. Roads will be open to motorized activities.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

- Guideline 1. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy for this management area.

Infrastructure

- Guideline 1. Limit facilities in dispersed areas to those necessary to protect and/or enhance resources. These may include portable or permanent toilets, trash receptacles, fire grills, signs, and vehicle barriers.

Integrated Pest Management

- Guideline 1. Focus pest management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting recreation opportunities.

Minerals

- Standard 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, activities may be located to meet scenic integrity objectives.

Rangelands

- Guidelines 1. Promote management actions that reduce conflicts between recreational uses and livestock grazing.
2. Discourage livestock concentration in heavily used dispersed recreation areas.

Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a summer ROS class of Rural, Roaded Natural, Semi-Primitive Motorized or Roaded Natural, as mapped.
- Manage for a winter ROS class of Rural, Semi-Primitive Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, as mapped.
2. Manage resource management activities to be compatible with recreation opportunities. Minimize impacts to other resources.
3. Locate, develop, and manage recreation sites to protect natural resources.
4. Discourage dispersed camping within ¼-mile of developed campgrounds.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Moderate.

Transportation

- Guideline 1. Design roads and trails to blend with the landscape.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.

Wildlife

- Guidelines 1. Retain or enhance the opportunities to view wildlife. Emphasize species that are common and/or adapted to human disturbance.
2. Design and implement habitat improvement projects to enhance recreational opportunities in the area.

Category 5

The areas are primarily forested ecosystems and are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Ecological conditions are maintained while emphasizing selected biological structures and compositions that represent a relatively even distribution of forest vegetation age and canopy sizes. These lands are often intensively used, have a high density of facilities and roads, and display significant evidence of vegetative manipulation. Users expect to see other humans and evidence of human activities.

5.12 General Forest and Rangelands, Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis

Theme – These areas are managed to sustain values associated with areas of woody vegetation and open grassland and to provide habitat and forage for livestock and wildlife. Habitat is managed to achieve and maintain the desired conditions for livestock, wildlife, and scenic resources.

Setting – A mix of rangeland and forest ecosystems, which feature large open meadows and other grasslands intermixed, with stands of aspen, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, and spruce/fir characterizes these areas.

Desired Condition – Rangeland vegetation will be managed for a mixture of seral stages. Most of the rangelands will be in mid seral stages of development. Those vegetative communities in early to mid seral will be in a natural stage of ecological development and not held in a low seral status as a result of adverse grazing practices.

Human use will be moderate throughout the summer and will increase during hunting seasons. The area will provide both motorized and nonmotorized recreation activities. Dispersed camping, fishing, and hunting opportunities will be plentiful.

Rangeland vegetation will be managed to emphasize forage production for livestock grazing. Fences and water developments will be used as needed to facilitate intensive livestock management.

Roads will vary from native-surfaced to gravel-surfaced. Some roads will be closed seasonally to protect road surfaces, reduce maintenance, and reduce disturbance to wildlife.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Guideline | 1. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy. |
|-----------|--|

Recreation

- Guidelines
1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Rural, Roaded Natural, Semi-Primitive Motorized or, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, as mapped.
 2. Do not construct new developed campgrounds.

Scenery

- Guideline
1. Meet or exceed the scenic integrity objective of Low.

Vegetation

- Standards
1. Use a full range of biologically appropriate silvicultural practices to produce sawtimber. Timber harvest is scheduled and does contribute to the allowable sale quantity. Opportunities are provided to collect firewood.
 2. Cut or remove trees to reduce fuel loads and fire risk, especially adjacent to private lands.

5.13 Forest Products

Theme – Areas are managed to produce commercial wood products.

Setting – These areas are characterized by ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and/or spruce/fir forests that can be intensively managed for wood fiber due to their accessibility, terrain, and resource conditions.

Desired Condition – Vegetation composition and structure will be managed for a mosaic of tree groups with different ages and heights while providing for a sustained yield of forest products. A variety of habitat structural stages will be present, although late successional forests are less common than in most other management areas. Regeneration harvest treatments will generally occur in stands meeting 95% culmination of Mean Annual Increment (CMAI). Created openings from timber harvest will be common and will include both snags and downed wood for wildlife habitat needs. Created openings will generally be less than 40 acres in size. They will be created to provide for a wide range of habitat structural stages, as well as the production of wood fiber.

In the spruce/fir cover type, wood products will be produced while retaining some overstory structure. These spruce/fir stands will be both even-aged and uneven-aged. Young stands will be maintained in vigorous condition.

Forage will be abundant in areas where timber harvest has occurred, in natural openings, and in meadows. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

Forest insects and diseases may be present but not at epidemic levels. Wildfires will generally be controlled. Accordingly, vegetation patterns will be developed primarily through the use of silvicultural practices, in conjunction with physical site characteristics.

Opportunities to view wildlife will be encouraged. Relatively high levels of disturbance from timber management activities may limit viewing opportunities to those species that are common and/or accustomed to the disturbance. Intensive timber management will have created a range of wildlife habitats with ample cover. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance.

Timber harvesting and thinning activities will be noticeable. Firewood and Christmas-tree cutting will be encouraged. Recreation facilities may be present and coordinated with the other multiple uses of the area.

Motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be provided. An extensive road and trail system will exist, ranging from roads with native surfaces to maintained gravel roads. Some roads will be closed seasonally; others will be closed after timber removal is complete. Local, usually single-purpose, roads will be constructed to a lower standard sufficient for logging trucks.

Standards and Guidelines**Fire and Fuels**

- Guideline 1. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Integrated Pest Management

- Guideline 1. Manage forested areas such that insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted.

Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, Rural, or Roaded Modified, as mapped.
2. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives.

Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Meet or exceed the scenic integrity objectives of Moderate in the foreground of arterial/collector roads and primary trails. The scenic integrity objective is Low in all other areas.
2. Design individual harvest units to minimize edge contrast.

Vegetation

- Standards 1. Use a full range of biologically appropriate silvicultural practices to produce sawtimber and other forest products. Timber harvest is scheduled and does contribute to the allowable sale quantity. Opportunities are provided to collect firewood.
2. Regeneration harvests of even-aged timber stands should not be undertaken until the stands have generally reached or surpassed 95% culmination of the mean annual increment (CMAI) measured in cubic feet. Exceptions may be made where resource management objectives or special resource considerations require earlier harvest, such as:
- a. Stands that are in imminent danger from insect or disease attack/mortality.
 - b. Wildlife habitat improvement.
 - c. Scenery resource enhancement or rehabilitation.
 - d. Ecosystem restoration.

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- e. Areas managed for Christmas tree production or post and poles.
- f. Where other resource management objectives or special resource considerations would benefit from earlier harvest.

- Guidelines
1. On lands suitable for timber production, manage to produce sawtimber-size trees in an economically efficient manner.
 2. Produce multiple wood products, including posts, poles, Christmas trees, and fuelwood, in an economically efficient manner through appropriate silvicultural practices.
 3. Manage stands using treatments, which maintain acceptable rates of growth as well as favor commercially valuable tree species.

5.15 Forest Products, Ecological Maintenance and Restoration Considering the Historic Range of Variability

Theme – These areas are managed to maintain or restore healthy ecological conditions through a variety of management activities, while providing a mix of ecological and human needs including commercial wood products.

Setting – These areas are characterized by ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and/or spruce/fir forests that can be managed for wood fiber while emphasizing conditions similar to the Historic Range of Variability.

Desired Condition – Management activities produce a wide variety of forest products while providing forage production, scenic quality, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and a variety of other goods and services.

Vegetation composition, structure and pattern will exist in a range of successional stages to move toward and eventually meet the natural range of ecological conditions and provide for wildlife, range, and timber objectives. Habitats will be managed to provide a range of structural stages from early successional to late successional along with associated understory habitat components naturally common to these stages. Harvested areas provide early successional habitats in a pattern with older forest that provides connectivity of the older forest.

Harvested stands will mimic the size, shape, and juxtaposition on the landscape of natural disturbances. Created pattern sizes will include a variety of sizes from just a few acres to as much as 1000 acres in size, averaging 250 acres in size. Sizes will vary based on resource objectives. The boundaries of cut areas will generally appear to follow natural landscape patterns.

Forest vegetation is managed to eventually develop a range of successional stages from seedlings to late successional stands. Management gives priority to harvesting successional stages that are more common than the typical HRV, especially in the 80-120 year age classes. Use of the full array of silvicultural practices and systems may be appropriate to achieve this objective.

Numerous open and closed roads provide commercial access, and both motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunities. A relatively high level of disturbance is accepted, in areas of lesser wildlife habitat value, as the landscape moves closer to the Historic Range of Variability (HRV). Use of temporary roads for management activities is preferred. Effective decommissioning of temporary roads following project implementation is a priority.

Large blocks within these areas include closed roads to provide wildlife security areas and nonmotorized recreation opportunities, while maintaining infrastructure for future management.

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Forest insects and diseases will be present but locally restricted. Wildfires will generally be controlled. Vegetation patterns will be developed through both natural processes and the use of silvicultural practices, in conjunction with physical site characteristics.

Opportunities to view wildlife in these areas will be encouraged. Recreation facilities will be present and coordinated with grazing, timber, and wildlife management in the area.

Signs of rangeland vegetation management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

- Guideline 1. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Integrated Pest Management

- Guideline 1. Manage forested area such that insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted, except where compatible with site-specific management objectives and conditions.

Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, Rural, or Roaded Modified, as mapped.
2. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet or exceed the scenic integrity objectives of Moderate in the foreground of arterial/collector roads and primary trails and Low in all other areas.

Transportation

- Guidelines 1. Close non-essential roads to enhance or develop large areas for wildlife security and nonmotorized recreation opportunities.
2. Use coordinated landscape scale treatments to limit the need for frequent reentries and continued need for additional classified roads. Maximize use of temporary roads.

Vegetation

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| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage vegetation to maintain or restore healthy ecological conditions through a variety of management activities. Timber harvest is scheduled and does contribute to the allowable sale quantity. There are opportunities to collect firewood. 2. Prohibit vegetation treatment in inventoried and mapped spruce-fir or lodgepole pine old growth stands. |
| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give priority to treating forested stands that return the area to habitat structural stages similar to HRV. 2. Mimic the size, shape, juxtaposition, and position on the landscape of past fires. Sizes of openings can vary from a few acres up to 250 acres based on site-specific conditions. Inclusion of past harvest units will be evaluated for opportunities to restore natural patterns on the landscape. 3. Design boundaries of harvest units to mimic natural landscape patterns. 4. Favor broadcast burning over mechanical treatments to complete site preparation. 5. Design precommercial thinning treatments to emulate natural variability in tree spacing. 6. In clearcut units, retain approximately 20% of the interior of the unit in clumps, or fingers of unharvested trees. These areas contribute to forest-wide standards for snag retention and distribution of future downed wood. These interior units are designed to emulate unburned areas that occur in natural fire disturbances. 7. Special emphasis is given to treating lodgepole pine in the 80 to 120 age class where these ages exceed the HRV. This may require harvesting some stands prior to achievement of 95% Culmination of Mean Annual Increment (CMAI) as described in 36 CFR 219.16(a)(3)(iii). 8. Design and implement silvicultural treatments to meet wildlife objectives for vertical structure, stand density, age class distribution, spatial pattern, or other habitat goals. 9. In areas burned by wildfire, provide habitat for post fire animal and plant communities in the design of salvage sales. Consider the historic levels of post burn habitat and the role of this habitat at various intervals following the fire. |

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

10. Use a full range of biologically appropriate silvicultural practices to produce sawtimber and other forest products.

Wildlife

- Guideline
1. Identify and manage areas greater than 250 acres in size as needed to provide adequate wildlife security areas.

5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range

Theme – Deer and elk winter or transition ranges are managed to provide adequate amounts of quality forage, cover, and solitude for deer, elk, and other species in a winter motorized setting.

Setting – These areas consist of both forested and rangeland habitats, generally in the lower elevation fringes of the Forest. Many areas are south-facing slopes where snow melt and plant growth occur earlier in the spring, and snow accumulation does not occur until late fall.

Desired Condition – Vegetation composition and structure will be managed to meet the needs of deer, elk, and other species on their winter range while still meeting desired vegetation conditions through proper utilization. Quaking aspen, Gambel oak, serviceberry, antelope bitterbrush, sage, grass, and forbs will be common throughout the area. Openings will be common and interconnected with networks of forested habitat that will provide thermal and hiding cover. Habitat mosaics of various types, age classes, and structural stages will be found throughout the area as needed to maintain or enhance winter range. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development.

Deer, elk, and other species will use this area during the winter and spring without being disturbed by human activities. Management of the area will be coordinated with Wyoming Game and Fish Department and other agencies responsible for wildlife management. There will be some evidence of human development and management activity, such as prescribed burning and timber harvest. Livestock and related rangeland improvements, such as ponds and fences, may be present and will be compatible with deer and elk habitat needs. Water developments will benefit big game and livestock by improving distribution and reducing use of riparian areas.

Standards and Guidelines

General

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| Standard | 1. | Restrict management and use activities during the winter and spring periods (November 15-April 30) where conflicts with wintering wildlife are identified, except for habitat improvement. |
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Fire and Fuels

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| Guideline | 1. | Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy. |
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Minerals

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| Standard | 1. | Allow oil and gas leasing; however, prohibit new surface disturbing activities from November 15 through April 30 where conflicts with wintering deer and elk are identified. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- Guideline 1. Minimize or mitigate impacts to deer and elk habitat in operating and reclamation plans.

Recreation

- Guideline 1. During the summer and fall, manage for an ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Rural, Roaded Modified, and Roaded Natural, as mapped.
- In the winter and spring, manage for an ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized and Semi-Primitive Motorized, as mapped.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet or exceed the scenic integrity objective of Moderate.

Vegetation

- Standards 1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.
2. Focus vegetation management on meeting wildlife winter range habitat objectives.

5.42 Bighorn Sheep Habitat

Theme – These areas are managed to provide adequate amounts of quality forage, cover, escape terrain, and solitude for bighorn sheep and other species, while allowing for vegetative manipulation to provide other multiple-use resources.

Setting – These areas provide habitat for established bighorn sheep herds on the Forest. Emphasis is on the maintenance and improvement of the habitat upon which bighorn sheep depend.

Much of the area contains cliffs, rocky points, and benches intermixed with grass, forbs, and shrub communities. Forested stands may also be present. Timber cutting may be used to enhance or maintain bighorn habitat.

Desired Condition – Herd objectives will be established in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Interpretive opportunities will be provided in established viewing areas. Some signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences, and water developments, may be present.

Vegetation will be managed to provide healthy plant communities with a variety of species present for food and cover. Natural and created openings or meadows of various sizes and shapes will occur. Wildland Fire Use and prescribed fire plans will be developed in support of habitat improvement.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

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| Guideline | 1. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy. |
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Rangelands

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| Guideline | 1. Implement grazing strategies that meet bighorn sheep habitat objectives. |
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Recreation

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| Guidelines | <p>1. During the summer and fall, manage for an ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, or Roaded Natural, as mapped.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">In the winter and spring, manage for an ROS class of Roaded Natural or Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized as mapped.</p> <p>2. Discourage recreation activities, which disturb bighorn sheep.</p> <p>3. Provide interpretive opportunities in established viewing areas.</p> |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Moderate.

Transportation

- Standards 1. Do not construct new travel routes across lambing grounds.
2. Restrict over-the-snow vehicle use to designated routes.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Implement vegetation management practices that maintain or improve bighorn sheep habitat. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.
- Guideline 1. Avoid vegetation management activities between November 15 and April 30 unless the treatments are needed to enhance habitat and cannot be completed outside these dates.

Category 7

Public lands are intermingled with private lands to such an extent that ecosystem management objectives for National Forest System lands must be tempered by landowners' uses and objectives. Human activities have altered the natural appearances of these landscapes in most areas on both public and private lands. Sights and sounds of humans are predominant. Private land use is often residential. Resource use is not planned on a sustainable basis but may occur in concert with surrounding private land values. Motorized transportation is common.

7.1 Residential/Forest Interface

Theme – National Forest System lands immediately adjacent to private lands are managed to build and maintain cooperative relationships between the landowners and other governments with jurisdiction. NFS lands adjacent to these residential interfaces will be managed to minimize risks of catastrophic fires and insect and disease epidemics.

Setting - These areas are located adjacent to developed residential areas. The private land is generally characterized by private residences that are often occupied year round. These interface communities were identified by Wyoming Office of Lands and Investments – Forestry Division. These areas do not have mapped boundaries. They occur as point locations on the Revised Plan Management Area Map. Management activities under this prescription will generally occur less than one half mile from the identified communities and will be subordinate to more restrictive management areas. Appropriate treatment boundaries will be identified at the project level based on site-specific conditions such as topography, vegetation conditions, and fuel loadings.

Desired Condition – Cooperative relationships will be emphasized with other agencies and adjacent private landowners in managing areas near identified interface communities to manage vegetation to reduce the risk of loss to private property from catastrophic fires and insect and disease epidemics.

Opportunities for solitude will be limited. Sights and sounds of human development will be evident. The area will be accessible and available for use by visitors, while conflicts with adjacent landowners will be minimized. Access points and property boundaries will be well marked.

Standards and Guidelines

General

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| Guideline | 1. Coordinate management activities with adjacent landowners, county fire wardens, local volunteer fire departments, and the State Forester. |
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MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Fire and Fuels

- Standard 1. To allow direct attack, treat management activity fuels to reduce fire intensity levels within 3 years after vegetation management activities are completed.
- Guidelines 1. Cooperate with state and local governments and fire protection districts in developing fire hazard reduction plans and ordinances.
2. Use direct control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Integrated Pest Management

- Guideline 1. Minimize potential for insect infestations and disease outbreaks through vegetation treatments to maintain stands at moderate or lower risk.

Category 8

Ecological conditions are likely to be permanently altered by human activities beyond the level needed to maintain ecological processes and landscapes with a natural appearance. These areas are generally small in scale. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Areas such as mines and other concentrated uses are included in this category. Human activities generally provide jobs and income, either directly or indirectly. Motorized transportation is common.

8.21 Developed Recreation

Theme – These areas contain developed recreation sites that provide an array of recreational opportunities and experiences in a forested environment. These areas also include the surrounding terrain, resulting in an attractive setting for the developments. Areas are managed to provide a variety of recreation opportunities in highly developed multiple-site, recreation complexes.

Setting – This Management Area provides intensive recreational use. Modifying the area often enhances recreational activities. The sounds of people using the area are evident, and interaction between visitors is sometimes high.

Desired Condition - Vegetation will be managed for recreation and aesthetics. In particular, management of forest vegetation should provide for resistance to windthrow, fire, and insects and disease. Although these areas will be intensively managed, they will blend and harmonize with the surrounding environment. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development. Livestock will not usually be present within developed recreation sites, but may be visible nearby.

Opportunities to view wildlife will be encouraged but may be limited to those species that are common and/or accustomed to the presence of people. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance.

These areas will be characterized by easy access and will be capable of sustaining a relatively high number of recreationists. Opportunities for solitude will be limited due to frequent contact with other users. Picnic tables, fire grates, toilet buildings, and camping sites will be visible. Access to and parking for sites, natural attractions, water features, or areas that provide desired recreation opportunities would be provided. Directional and regulatory signs will be widely used to identify activities and requirements for use of the area. Roads and recreation sites may be paved. Facilities will meet the intent of Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines and the associated standards for accessibility.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

- Guideline 1. Use direct control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Infrastructure

- Guideline 1. Only allow operation of licensed vehicles in developed campgrounds.

Integrated Pest Management

- Standard 1. Focus pest management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting site vegetation and facilities.

Minerals

- Standards 1. Withdraw areas from entry for locatable minerals.
2. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.
3. Prohibit removal of mineral materials.

Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Manage for an ROS class of Roaded Natural or Rural in summer. Manage for an ROS class of Rural, Roaded Natural, Semi-Primitive Motorized, or Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized in winter, as mapped.
2. Construct, reconstruct, and maintain developed sites in accordance with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification established for the immediate area.
3. Locate, develop, and manage recreation sites to protect natural resources.
4. Discourage dispersed camping within ¼-mile of developed campgrounds.
5. Use fencing to exclude grazing from developed recreation sites.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Low.

Vegetation

- Standard 1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity.

Wildlife

- Guidelines 1. Encourage habitat improvement projects, which will increase opportunities for viewing wildlife, habitat management, and fishing.
2. Provide opportunities to educate visitors and interpret wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and biotic communities.

8.22 Ski-based Resorts, Existing and Potential

Theme – Areas with existing ski-based resorts or potential ski-based resorts are managed to provide for skiing and related recreation uses.

Setting – This area is the Snowy Range Ski Area, which is primarily designed for downhill skiing and other nonmotorized winter sports. Areas may include terrain into which winter sports developments may expand.

Desired Condition – Ski runs will be designed to blend and harmonize with the natural terrain. Recreation facilities, such as buildings, lifts, and groomed trails, will be evident. At the base development, services and facilities will be designed to complement the overall forest setting and will serve the needs of forest visitors. Opportunities to experience solitude will be very limited during the winter sports season. The Ski Areas' programs and services will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Changes to vegetation composition and structure will result in forested areas interspersed with openings of varying widths and shapes. Forested areas will be managed for aesthetics and recreation and for their resistance to windthrow, fire, and insect and disease infestation. Artificial openings and other disturbed areas will be re-vegetated and maintained with drainage structures to protect soil productivity and minimize erosion.

Opportunities to view wildlife and their habitat will be available throughout the year, but may be limited by the amount of recreational use. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance.

Livestock may be present during the summer. Forest Service and permittee objectives will be met within the development boundary. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in mid seral to late seral stages of development.

The road system will be developed and maintained by the permittee. These roads will be subject to seasonal closure. Only permitted motor-vehicle use will be allowed. The trail system may include trails designed for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and ski touring. Trails will be designed and maintained for heavy seasonal use. All trails will be closed to summer and winter motorized use, except by permit. Forest trailheads will be maintained to provide and encourage easy access to forestlands. Trail and other signs will be consistent with the Ski Area sign plan.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

- Guideline 1. Use direct control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Infrastructure

- Standard 1. Design and construct structures to blend and harmonize with the natural features of the area.

Integrated Pest Management

- Guideline 1. Minimize potential for insect infestations and disease outbreaks through vegetation treatments to maintain stands at moderate or lower risk.

Minerals

- Standards 1. Withdraw areas from entry for locatable minerals.
2. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.

Rangelands

- Guideline 1. Where grazing is allowed, modify allotment management plans to emphasize and retain recreation values.

Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a Rural or Roaded Natural ROS class in summer and fall. Manage for an ROS class of Rural in the winter and spring.
2. Develop nonmotorized recreation activities consistent with a four-season resort by permit. Allow traditional uses on National Forest System lands only if they are in the public's interest.
3. Manage resource management activities to be compatible with recreation opportunities. Minimize impacts to other resources.

Scenery

- Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Low.

Special Uses

- Standard 1. Issue permits for all commercial recreation activities to one entity in order to reduce potential conflicts between competing recreation permit holders. Do not allow this to result in exclusive use of the area.

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Transportation

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| Standard | 1. | Prohibit motorized use year-round unless a permit is issued for specific purposes. |
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Vegetation

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| Standard | 1. | Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity. |
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Wildlife

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| Guideline | 1. | Provide opportunities to educate visitors and interpret wildlife and habitat |
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8.3 Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites

Theme – Areas are managed for utility corridors, major water pipelines and electronic sites. These areas include water pipelines, major oil and gas pipelines, electric power transmission lines, and major communication systems, including telephone and microwave.

Setting – These areas are present throughout the Forest and occur within a variety of management areas. They are identified as linear features on the Forest Plan Map and do not have a standard width.

Desired Condition – Vegetative composition and structure will be altered to meet the needs of the site. Larger trees will be removed to allow for a safety area located below and to the side of power lines. Smaller trees will still be present. Other areas, such as pipelines and electronic sites, will be cleared of all trees. There will be little evidence of insect or disease damage. The boundaries of the cut areas bordering the utility corridor will blend in with the surrounding vegetation.

Opportunities for viewing wildlife will be good. Wildlife species that prefer edge habitats, such as deer, will be most common. Raptors will often be seen within the corridor, although they may not nest there. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance.

Human development will be obvious and may dominate foreground views. Uses within the corridor will be compatible with management of adjacent areas. Both motorized and nonmotorized uses will occur in the area, although road use may be restricted to utility maintenance vehicles. Most roads will have a native surface with waterbars to reduce erosion.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

Guideline 1. Use direct control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Real Estate

Guideline 1. Consider consolidation to accomplish the following:

- a. Combine like uses in a single corridor, site, or facility.
- b. Coordinate placement of dissimilar uses in a single corridor, site, or facility.

Recreation

Guidelines 1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, or Roaded Modified, as mapped.

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

2. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives.

Scenery

- Guidelines
1. Locate and design utility corridors and electronic sites to blend with the landscape and be compatible with scenic integrity objectives in adjacent management areas.
 2. Prepare vegetation management plans for all utility corridors to minimize scenic impacts and plan rehabilitation of existing impacts.

Transportation

- Guideline
1. Issue road permits to utility/electronic site permittees where necessary. Access roads may be closed to public use.

Wildlife

- Guideline
1. Design and construct power transmission and distribution lines to minimize electrocution hazards for raptors, and provide nest sites where feasible.

8.6 Administrative Sites

Theme – This prescription emphasizes management of administrative sites.

Setting – This Management Area includes office buildings, parking lots, work centers, guard stations and storage facilities.

Desired Condition –Facilities will provide adequate improvements to protect the health and safety of workers and visitors.

Landscape modifications and facilities may be visible, but are reasonably mitigated to blend and harmonize with natural features. Vegetation will be managed to provide a pleasing appearance for visitors.

Standards and Guidelines

Fire and Fuels

Guideline 1. Use direct control as the wildland fire management strategy.

Integrated Pest Management

Guideline 1. Manage forested areas such that insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted.

Minerals

- Standards
1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.
 2. Withdraw areas from entry for locatable minerals
 3. Prohibit removal of mineral materials.

Rangelands

Guideline 1. Do not allow livestock grazing, except in administrative site and guard station horse pastures.

Recreation

Guideline 1. Manage for a year-round ROS class of Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, Rural, or Roaded Modified.

Scenery

Guideline 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of Low.

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Vegetation

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| Standard | 1. | Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute to the allowable sale quantity. |
| Guideline | 1. | Vegetation should be managed to reduce the risk of loss to administrative facilities from catastrophic fires. |